DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 10 are pending in this office action.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ameet Patel, Reg. No. L0353 on May 30, 2008 and June 2, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claim:

Please cancel claims 2-4, 7-9, and 11-14.

Please replace claims 1, 5, 6, and 10 with amended cleaned version of claims 1, 5, 6, and 10 as follows:

1.   An electronic mail device comprising:

a mail accepting unit accepting an input of an electronic mail as a processing object;

a keyword extraction unit obtaining a keyword from the electronic mail, wherein the keyword is at least one of:

a character string delimited by the start point and the end point;

information about an existing area of a sender or about a pre-registered recipient;

a date and time recorded in relative time since a data and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time; or

a character string delimited by the start point and the end point, wherein one of:

strings of words of titles of saved mail and the input electronic mail are perfectly coincident with each other;

strings of words of titles of saved mail and the input electronic mail are coincident forwards; or

a value given by (a number or words used in common throughout respective titles of saved mail)/(a total number of words) is obtained, and the value is equal to or greater than a predetermined value;

a search unit searching for additional information corresponding to the keyword from an additional candidate storage unit stored with candidates for the additional information to the mail previously processed;

an additional information selection unit accepting, in a case where the search unit has searched out plural pieces of additional information, a selection, from a list of the plural pieces of additional information, wherein the list has been sorted on a basis of a history of mails previously transmitted or received; and

an adding unit adding the accepted selection to the electronic mail as a processing object, in the case where the search unit has searched out plural pieces of additional information.

5.   The electronic mail device according to claim 1, wherein when receiving the electronic mail from a source terminal and transmitting the mail to a destination terminal, the additional information is added to the electronic mail.

6.   A computer-readable storage storing an information adding program for an electronic mail, for making a computer execute a process comprising:

accepting an input of an electronic mail as a processing object;

obtaining a keyword from the electronic mail, wherein the keyword is at least one of:

a character string delimited by the start point and the end point;

information about an existing area of a sender or about a pre-registered recipient;

a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time; or

a character string delimited by the start point and the end point, wherein one of:

strings of words of titles of saved mail and the input electronic mail

are perfectly coincident with each other;

strings of words of titles of saved mail and the input electronic mail are coincident forwards; or

a value given by (a number of words used in common throughout respective titles of saved mail)/(a total number of words) is obtained, and the value is equal to or greater than a predetermined value;

searching for additional information corresponding to the keyword from an additional candidate storage unit stored with candidates for the additional information to the mail previously processed;

accepting, in a case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information in the searching for the additional information, a selection, from a list of the plural pieces of additional information, wherein the list has been sorted on a basis of a history of mails previously transmitted or received; and

adding the accepted selection to the electronic mail as the processing object in the case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information.

10.   An information adding method for an electronic mail device, comprising:

accepting an input of an electronic mail as a processing object;

obtaining a keyword from the electronic mail, wherein the keyword is at least one of:

a character string delimited by the start point and the end point;

information about an existing area of a sender or about a pre-registered recipient;

a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time; or

a character string delimited by the start point and the end point, wherein one of:

strings of words of titles of saved mail and the input electronic mail are perfectly coincident with each other;

strings of words of titles of saved mail and the input electronic mail are coincident forwards; or

a value given by (a number of words used in common throughout respective titles of saved mail)/(a total number of words) is obtained, and the value is equal to or greater than a predetermined value;

searching for additional information corresponding to the keyword from an additional candidate storage unit stored with candidates for the additional information to the mail processed in the past;

accepting, in a case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information in the searching for the additional information, a selection, from a list of the plural pieces of the additional information, wherein the list has been sorted on a basis of a history of mails previously transmitted or received; and

adding the accepted selection to the electronic mail as the processing object in the case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

After a search and a thorough examination of the present amended application and in light of the prior art made of record, claims 1, 5, 6 and 10 are allowed.

The prior art of record neither teaches nor fairly suggests in combination elements as recited in the applicant's independent claim wherein a character string delimited by the start point and the end point; information about an existing area of a sender or about a pre-registered recipient; a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time; or a character string delimited by the start point and the end point, wherein one of: strings of words of titles of saved mail and the input electronic mail are perfectly coincident with each other; strings of words of titles of saved mail and the input electronic mail are coincident forwards; or a value given by (a number of words used in common throughout respective titles of saved mail)/(a total number of words) is obtained, and the value is equal to or greater than a predetermined value.

The dependent claim, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification is also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to REZWANUL MAHMOOD whose telephone number is (571)272-5625. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571)272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2164
June 2, 2008

/Shahid Al Alam/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2162